

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/536,458
Response filed May 17, 2006
Reply to OA dated November 18, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend FIG 13A and 13B as shown on the attached drawings.

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REMARKS

Applicants have amended Figures 13A and 13B with the addition of "Prior Art" as requested in the Office Action and have amended the specification to remove references to claims therein and make other minor corrections. No new matter is involved.

Applicants have also amended the claims to remove the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to clarify the present invention.

The independent Claims 1, 5, 8 and 10, have been amended to provide that the marks are made by spouting a predetermined amount of liquid coloring material of a required color against the outer surface of the cover portion of the covered wire. New dependent claims 14-21 are to more specific embodiments of the invention, and require use of a coloring material that is a liquid material dissolved in a solvent, and that the liquid coloring material is supplied in a nozzle joined with a valve, which is joined with a compressed-gas supply, and is spouted by the compressed-gas supplied from the compressed-gas supply source when the valve is opened. Support therefore can be found on page 30, line 7 to page 31, line 5 of the present specification.

Such covered wires are not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by Tanaka et al. (JP 06-150730); Claims 1-3, 8 and 12 as anticipated by JP 10-31918; and Claims 4-7, 9-11 and 13 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of the '918 reference. Reconsideration and

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removal of those rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that the Tanaka reference shows a wire with a first mark (33) of a first color and a second mark (34) of a different color, with a gap therebetween, disposed along the lengthwise of the wire, with the first mark of a longer length than the second mark. With respect to the '918 reference, it is alleged that the reference shows a wire with a first mark (83) of a first color and a second mark (82) of a second color, with gaps between the marks, that the marks are lengthwise along the wire with the first mark longer than the second mark, and that means (82) are provided for distinguishing wire diameters.

As now amended, the independent claims require that the marks be made respectively by spouting a predetermined amount of a liquid coloring material of required color against the outer surface of the cover portion of the covered wire which is distinct from the cited references. Also, with respect to the new claims added, the distinction is provided that the coloring material is a liquid color material dissolving and dispersing color material in a solvent, and that the liquid coloring material is supplied in a nozzle joined with a valve, which is joined with a compressed-gas supply source, and is spouted by the compressed-gas supplied from the compressed-gas supply source when the valve is opened.

These distinctions, it is believed, render the present claims patentable.

In view of the present amendments to the claims and the above remarks, Claims 1-21, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance.

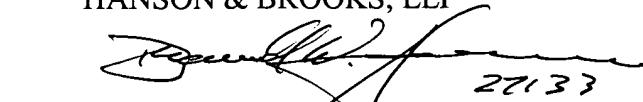
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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